

Can You Dig It?

Take Action Today
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Great Resource



Down-to-Earth Tips, Guidance and Information on How to 'Go Green' in Your Backyard



- Available at:
- <http://www.scdhec.gov>
- Do a search for Smart Gardener
- Click on first item.
- Link to pdf is on the right.

What Do You Need to Compost?

- $\frac{1}{3}$ = Green Nitrogen



- $\frac{2}{3}$ = Brown Carbon



What cannot go in?

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	Good Compost Pile	Not Enough Moisture	No air (aerobic)	High in Nitrogen	Low in Nitrogen
Nitrogen : Carbon	1:3	1:3	1:3	1:0	0:3
Ingredients	Layered wet greens and dry browns	Layered dry greens and dry browns	Layered wet greens and dry browns	All greens – wet and dry	Mostly dry browns
Moisture	Keep moist	Do not water	Keep moist	Keep moist	Keep moist
Turning	Turn regularly	Turn regularly	Do not turn	Turn regularly	Turn regularly
Container	Holes	Holes	No Holes	Holes	Holes

What Do You Need to Compost?



Mantis Tumbler = \$500

What Do You Need to Compost?



**Remember
To Add Soil for
Microorganisms**

Seattle Composter=
\$60

Homemade = \$25 +
sweat

What Do You Need to Compost?



Pallets = Free



What Do You Need to Compost?



What Are the Challenges

Problem	Solutions	
Too much material	Only collect student scraps	Cut back on cafeteria waste
Smell	Not in a good pile	Use as a learning opportunity
Ants	Try thick plastic like pond liner under the pile – remember to add soil	Backerboard (sheets of concrete used under tile) from Lowe's
Student motivation	Everyone must participate at least once a quarter	Wait until next year

Vermicomposting - Worms

- Red Worms (*Eisenia fetida*) –Red Wigglers, Brandling Worms, Manure Worms, Trout Worms, Tiger Worms



Vermicomposting - Bins



Vermicomposting - Bedding

Inxepensive/Free

- Shredded cardboard
- Shredded newspaper
- Aged straw
- Fall leaves
- Moisture – wrung out wet sponge
- Air Holes

Costly

- Coconut coir
- Peat moss

Vermicomposting – Food

Yes

- All in moderation
- Vegetable & fruit waste -
- Starchy materials – bread, pasta, rice, potatoes
- Aged animal manures
- Shredded newspaper, used paper towels
- Egg shells
- Coffee grounds
- Tea bags

No

- Human/pet waste
- Non biodegradable materials
- Dairy/meat
- Oils/grease
- Harsh chemicals

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